Revision in prices of Maruti vehicles

622. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been upward revision in prices of different varieties of Maruti vehicles, recently;

(b) if so, what is the extent of increase in the prices as compared to the prices initially fixed when production of these vehicles started; and

(c) how many times the prices of these vehicles have been raised since the start of manufacture and the details of increase each time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) to (c) A Statement indicating the prices of Maruti veheicles at the time of introduction and at various points of time alongwith the extent of increase in the prices as compared to prices initially fixed when production of these vehicles started is attached. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 52].

Quality control of iodised salt

623. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been 19.4 per cent increase in iodisation of salt during 1987-88;

(b) what is the target set for 1988-89 and how far it has been achieved so far;

(c) whether the iodised salt retains its quality when exposed to heat and sun light during transportation and storage and when heated while cooking;

(d) whether Government exercise any control on the price of iodised salt produced by the private manufacturers; and

(e) whether random sampling survey at manufacturing and at marketing stages are being carried out regularly and if so, what are the details of samples analysed during last year, Statewise and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There has been an increase of 118 per cent in the production of Iodised Salt during the year 1987-88 as compared to the production in the preceeding year 1986-87.

(b) Against the target of 22 lakh tonnes fixed for 1988-89, the actual production was 21.90 lakh tonnes.

(c) According to the studies so far conducted, minimum loss of iodine occurs during transit depending on the quality of the bags used for transporation. More Potassium Iodate at the manufacturing stage is required to compensate for the loss during transit and storage so as to ensure retention of minimum level of 15 PPM iodine upto the distribution level.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. Random samples of the consignments of iodised salt are drawn and analysed before being allowed for despatch by the iodised salt manufacturers at source by the Salt Department to ensure that iodised salt conforms to the specifications laid down under the PFA Act at the manufacturer's end. Occasionally, samples are drawn from the retailers in the consuming centres by the State Governments to monitor the levels of iodisation retained at the consumer's end. Available details of the samples during the last one year are given in the statement attached.